



image

#28

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DAN MORA

MIKE SPICER

# TRANSFORMERS



 **DNA**  
8.25



TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE TWENTY-EIGHT

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THE NEMESIS.  
DECEPTICON STRONGHOLD.



RELEASE  
ME,  
DEZIMIR!

CONSTRUCTICONS!  
HOLD HIM DOWN  
BEFORE HE DAMAGES  
THE NEMESIS!



WHAT'S A  
DEZIMIR?!



UNCLEAR!  
RUMBLE,  
HELP US  
BEFORE HE--!









AH. **SKYWARP**.  
ONE OF MY MOST  
LOYAL SOLDIERS.

AND YOU COME  
BEARING GIFTS.  
WHERE HAVE  
YOU BEEN ALL  
THIS TIME?



I WAS DISMANTLED.  
THE AUTOBOTS FOOLISHLY  
REPAIRED ME. I WAS  
ABLE TO ESCAPE, BUT  
**SOUNDWAVE** REMAINS  
IN THEIR CAPTIVITY.



**YES.**  
SOUNDWAVE.  
WE CAN'T ALLOW  
OUR FALLEN  
BROTHER TO  
REMAIN IN THE  
CLUTCHES OF OUR  
MOST HATED  
ENEMY.

WE MUST  
PREPARE  
AN ATTACK  
AT ONCE!





"CAN ARCEE  
HEAR US?"

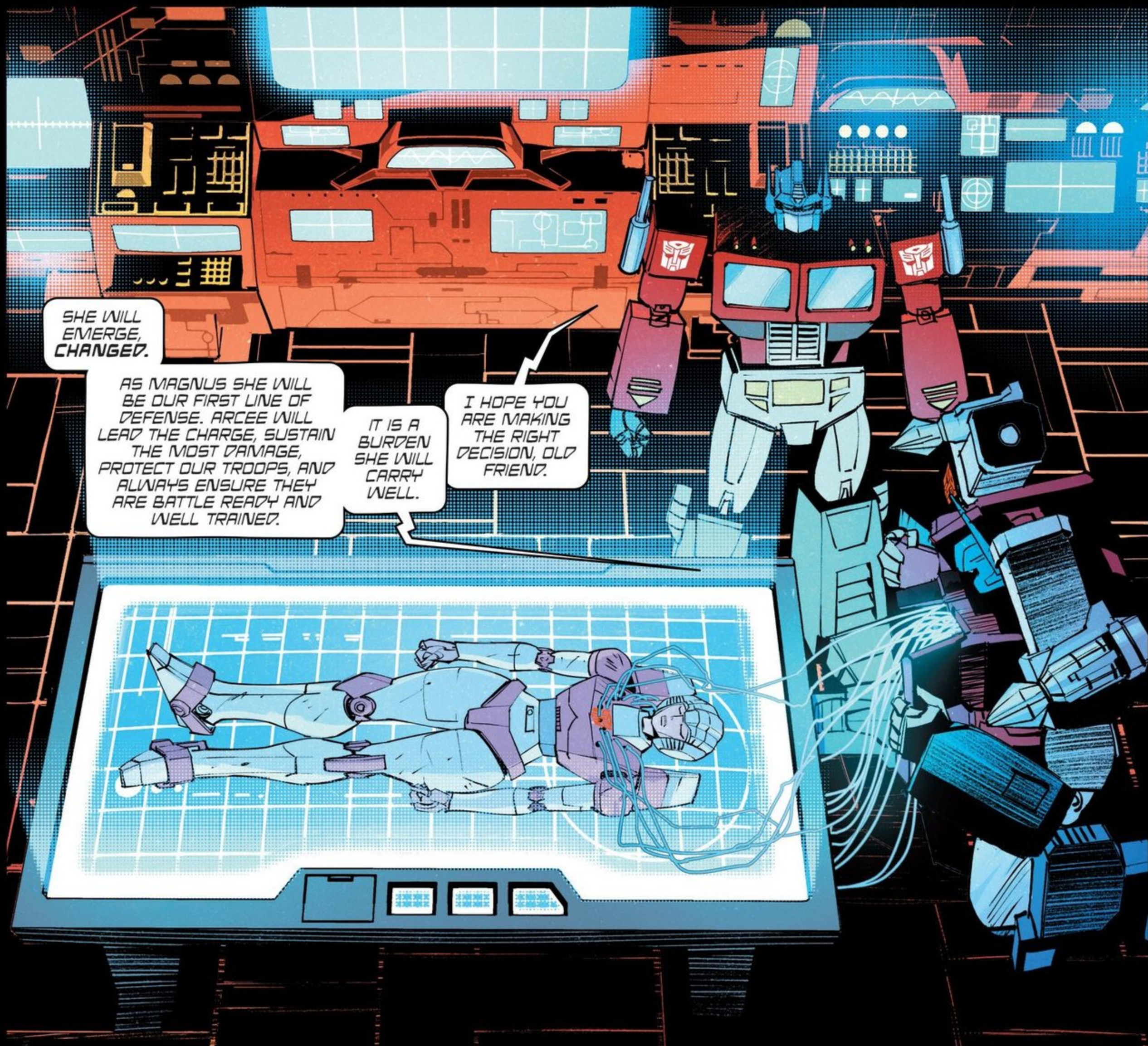
"I DON'T KNOW, OPTIMUS.  
SOME CAN. SOME CAN'T.  
REGARDLESS, SHE WON'T  
BE ABLE TO RESPOND."

"SHE IS ON HER VISION  
QUEST TO BECOME  
MAGNUS. IT IS A LONG  
JOURNEY OF COMMUNING  
WITH THE GREAT  
WARRIORS OF OUR PAST."

COMMUNING?!







SHE WILL  
EMERGE,  
CHANGED.

AS MAGNUS SHE WILL  
BE OUR FIRST LINE OF  
DEFENSE. ARCEE WILL  
LEAD THE CHARGE, SUSTAIN  
THE MOST DAMAGE,  
PROTECT OUR TROOPS, AND  
ALWAYS ENSURE THEY  
ARE BATTLE READY AND  
WELL TRAINED.

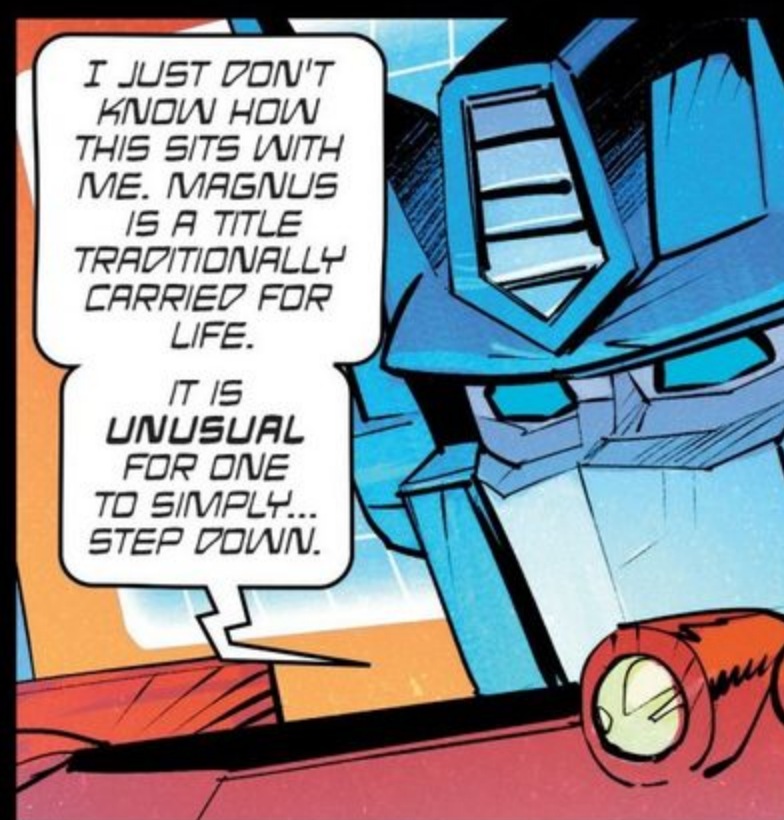
IT IS A  
BURDEN  
SHE WILL  
CARRY  
WELL.

I HOPE YOU  
ARE MAKING  
THE RIGHT  
DECISION, OLD  
FRIEND.



I'VE RARELY  
BEEN THIS SURE  
ABOUT ANYTHING.  
ARCEE WILL BE  
A FAR BETTER  
MAGNUS THAN  
I EVER WAS.

I'M SURE  
YOU'D AGREE,  
PRIME. IT  
WOULDN'T  
OFFEND ME.



I JUST DON'T  
KNOW HOW  
THIS SITS WITH  
ME. MAGNUS  
IS A TITLE  
TRADITIONALLY  
CARRIED FOR  
LIFE.

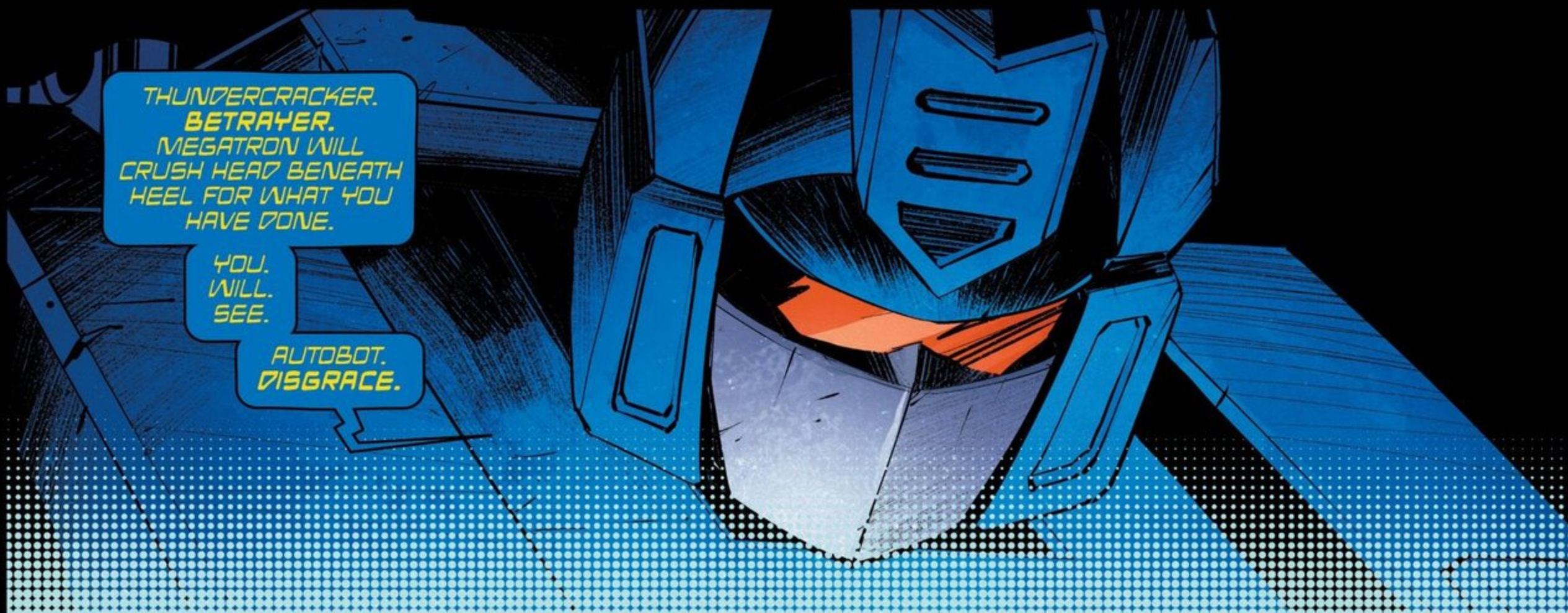
IT IS  
UNUSUAL  
FOR ONE  
TO SIMPLY...  
STEP DOWN.



I HAVE  
MADE MY  
DECISION.







THUNDERCRACKER.  
**BETRAYER.**  
MEGATRON WILL  
CRUSH HEAD BENEATH  
HEEL FOR WHAT YOU  
HAVE DONE.

YOU.  
WILL.  
SEE.

AUTOBOT.  
DISGRACE.



...



THERE WILL BE A TIME,  
SOUNDWAVE, WHEN YOU  
ARE TOLD TO DO SOMETHING  
YOU THINK IS **CRUEL**, OR  
**UNNECESSARY**. OR  
SOMETHING BAD WILL  
HAPPEN TO SOMEONE YOU  
CARE ABOUT, AND YOU WILL  
SEE HOW CALLOUS AND  
HATEFUL THE DECEPTICONS  
REALLY ARE.



MAYBE THEN  
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND  
MY ACTIONS. OR MAYBE  
YOU STILL WON'T...BUT  
THEN YOU'LL KNOW  
WHO YOU TRULY ARE.







SHADOW WATCH UNDERGROUND BASE.



FIRST TIME  
SEEING THE SUN  
IN A WHILE, HUH,  
MAYHEM? DON'T  
WORRY, I'VE GOT  
A NICE DARK HOLE  
PICKED OUT FOR  
YOU, MY HATEFUL  
LITTLE  
MUSHROOM.



SORRY,  
FLAGG.  
I HAVE  
OTHER  
PLANS.

VIPER,  
ACTIVATE!

CHIK-CHA-TFF!



BLADEJET,  
RELEASE!

AAAAGH!

GGGGG!



SECURE THE  
PRISONER!

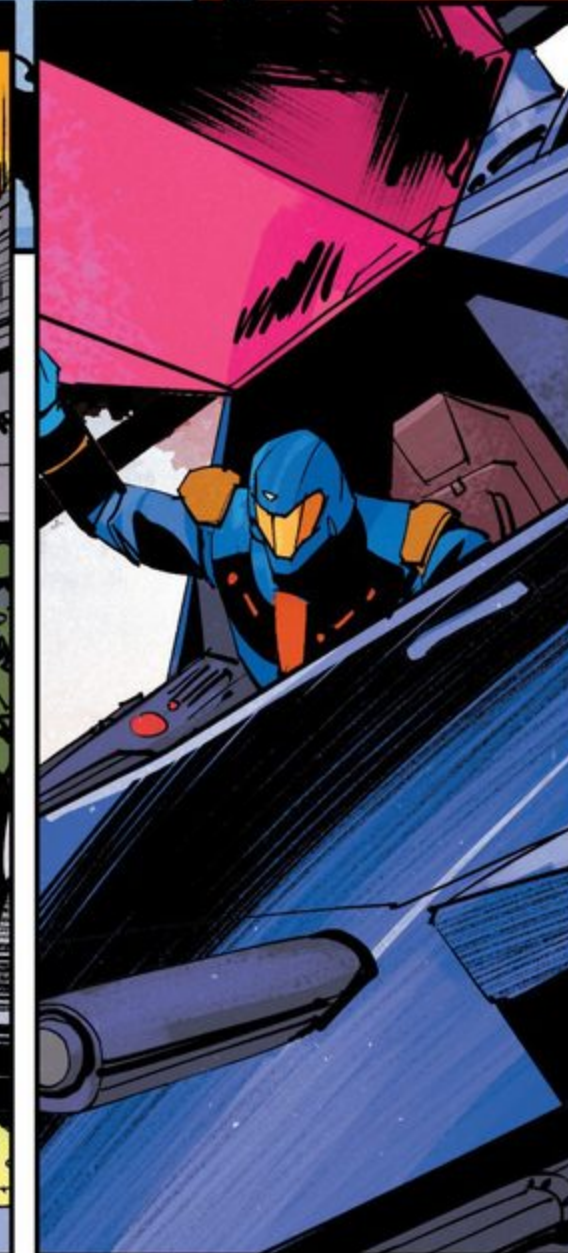


THE  
HELL?





CONSIDER THIS MY  
RESIGNATION,  
FLAGG!



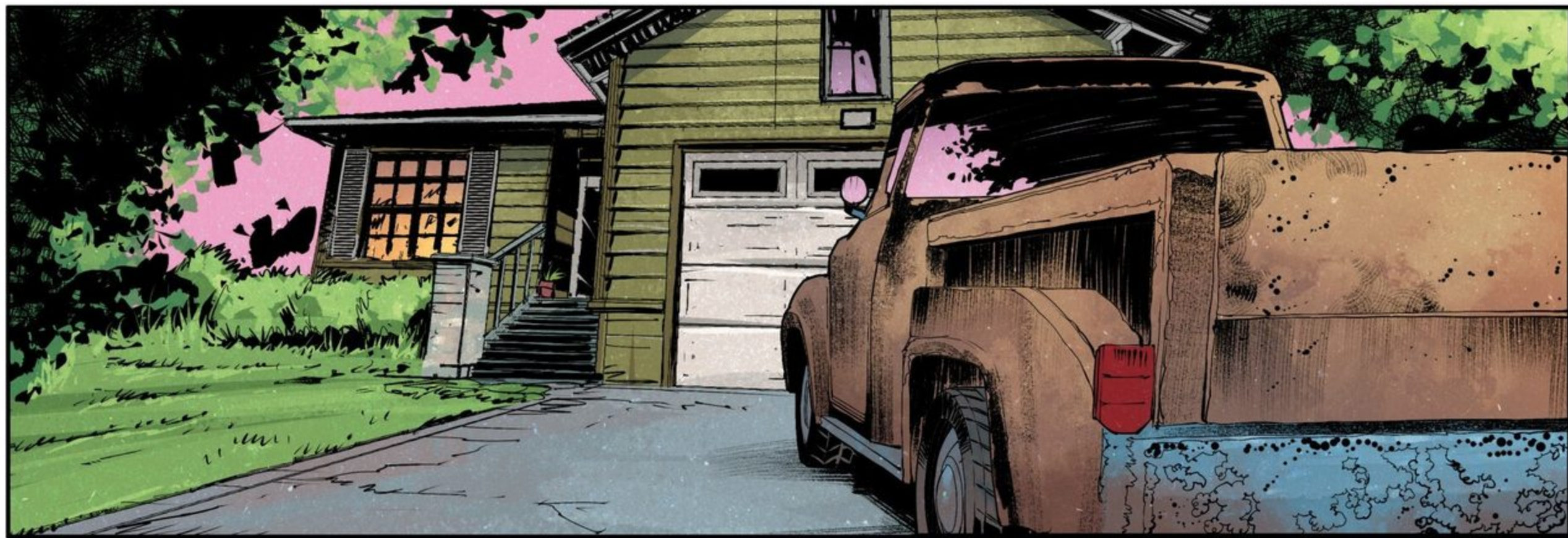




SOMEONE FIND  
**MATT  
TRAKKER.**

I'VE GOT  
A SNEAKING  
SUSPICION WE  
BACKED THE  
WRONG  
HORSE.





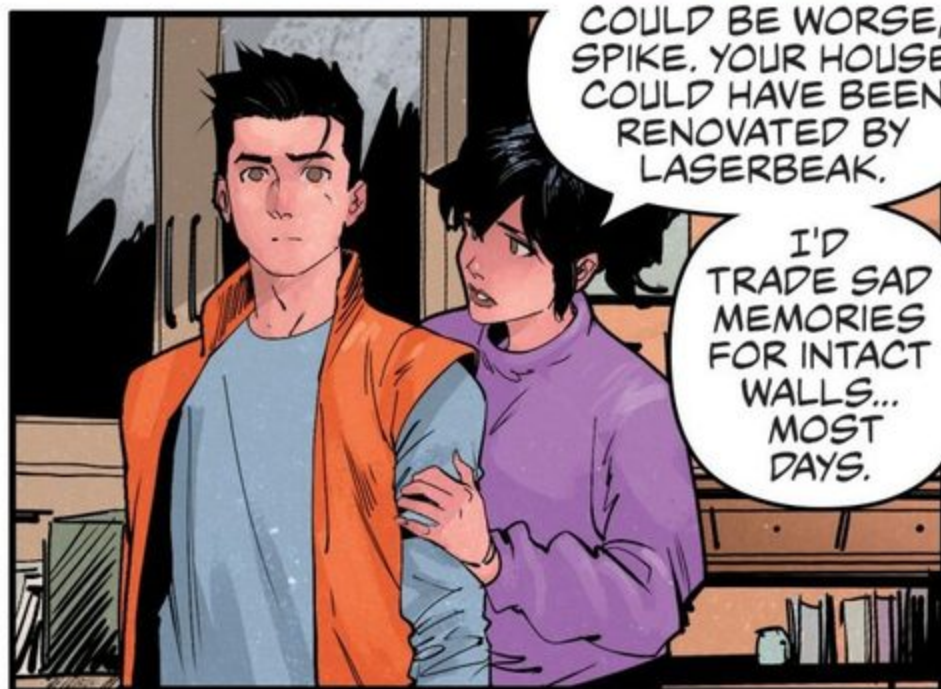
I HOPE IT'S NOT WEIRD, ME STAYING HERE.

HONESTLY, CARLY, IT'S WEIRD BEING HOME AT ALL AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN THROUGH. IT'LL BE NICE NOT SLEEPING IN THE BACK OF AN ALIEN CAR...OR ALIEN TRUCK, OR ALIEN JET.

IT'S JUST GOOD TO BE HOME.



FOR THE MOST PART...



COULD BE WORSE, SPIKE. YOUR HOUSE COULD HAVE BEEN RENOVATED BY LASERBEAK.

I'D TRADE SAD MEMORIES FOR INTACT WALLS... MOST DAYS.

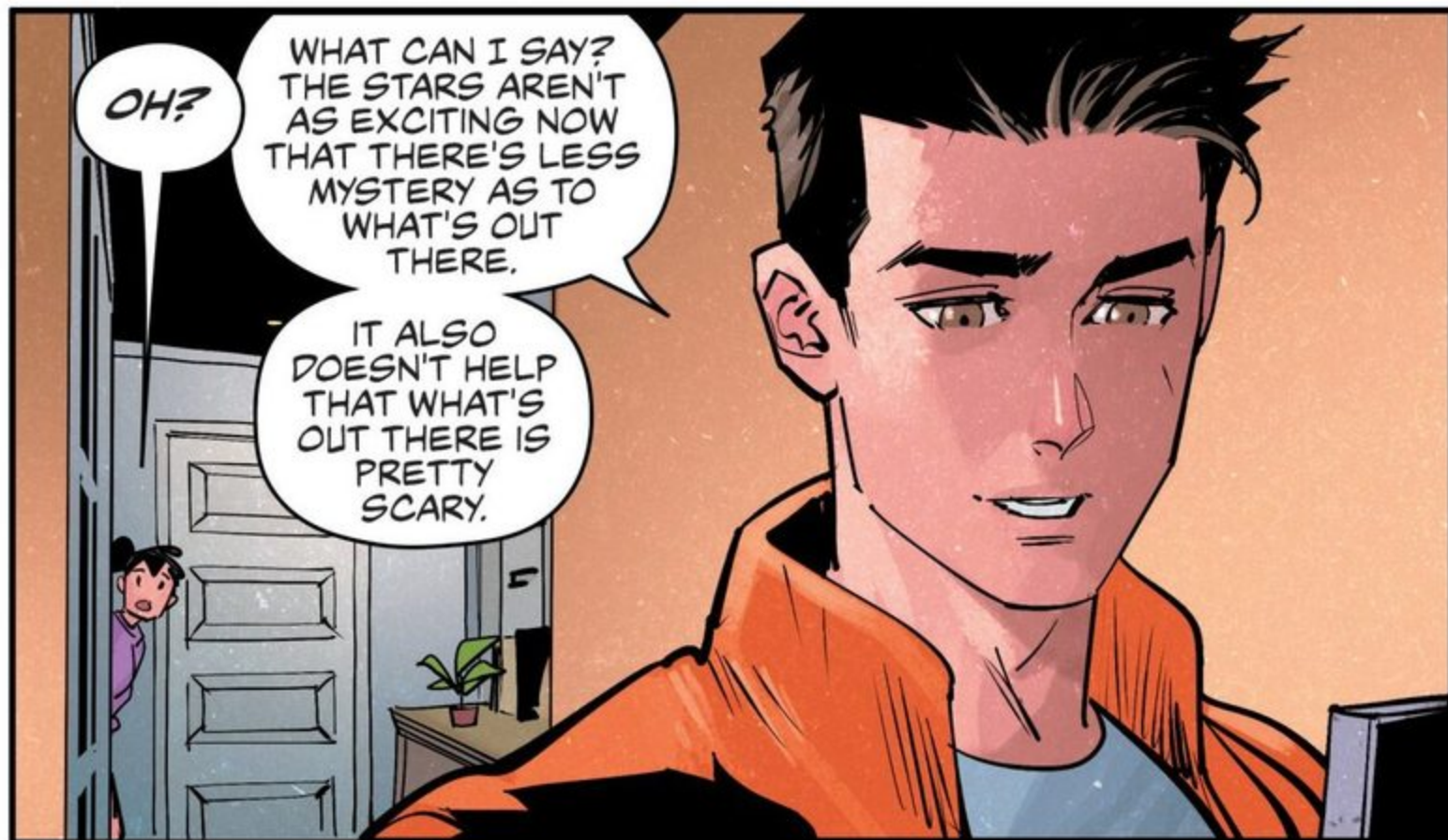


NO SAD MEMORIES. NOT WHEN YOU'RE HERE.



YEAH. WHILE IT LASTS. YOU START AT BERKELEY NEXT SEMESTER.

YEAH. NO. I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.



OH?

WHAT CAN I SAY? THE STARS AREN'T AS EXCITING NOW THAT THERE'S LESS MYSTERY AS TO WHAT'S OUT THERE.

IT ALSO DOESN'T HELP THAT WHAT'S OUT THERE IS PRETTY SCARY.

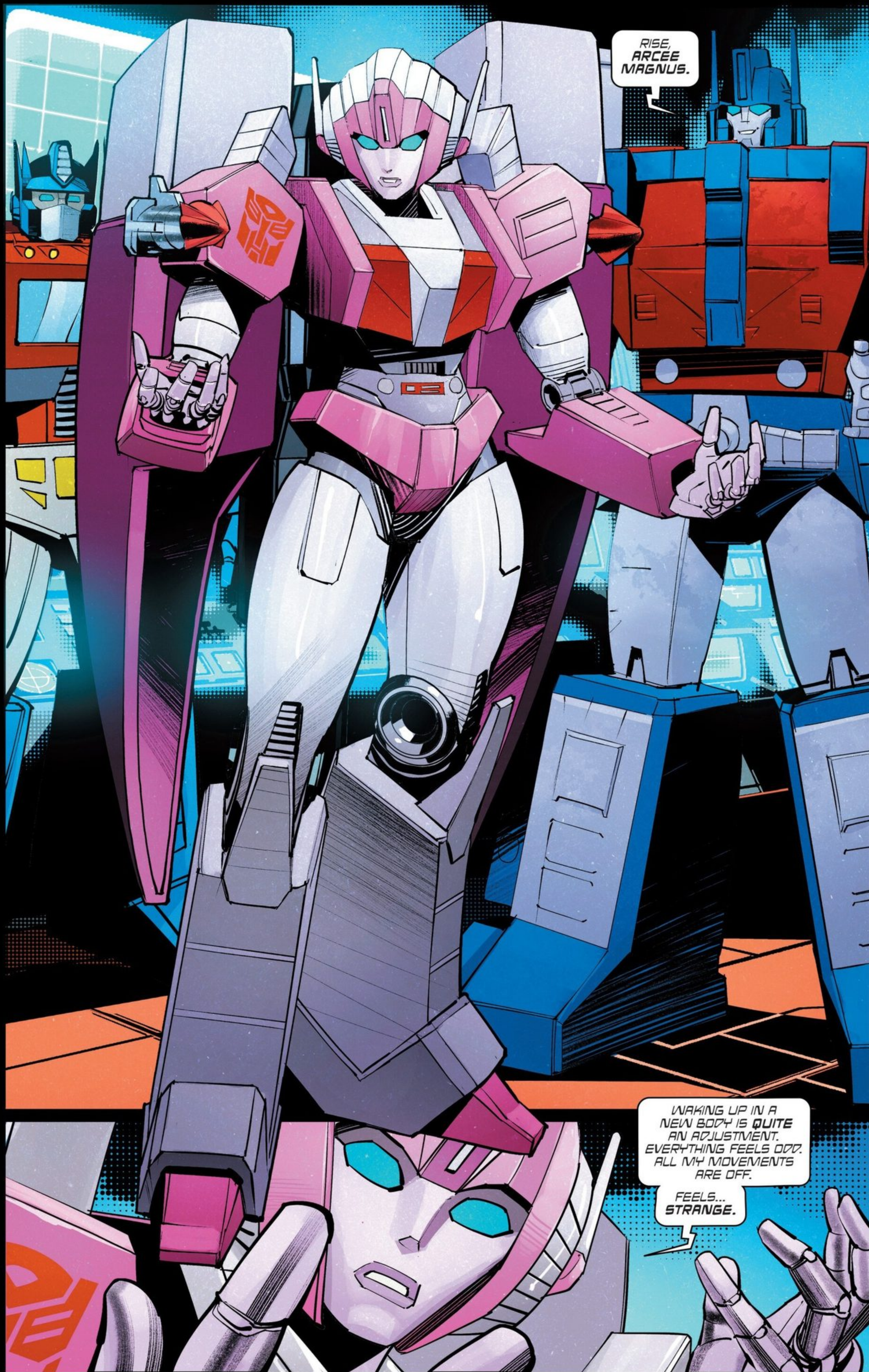
SPIKE, NO. YOU CAN'T GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAMS.



I'M NOT. I'M JUST...

CONSIDERING A NEW PATH.



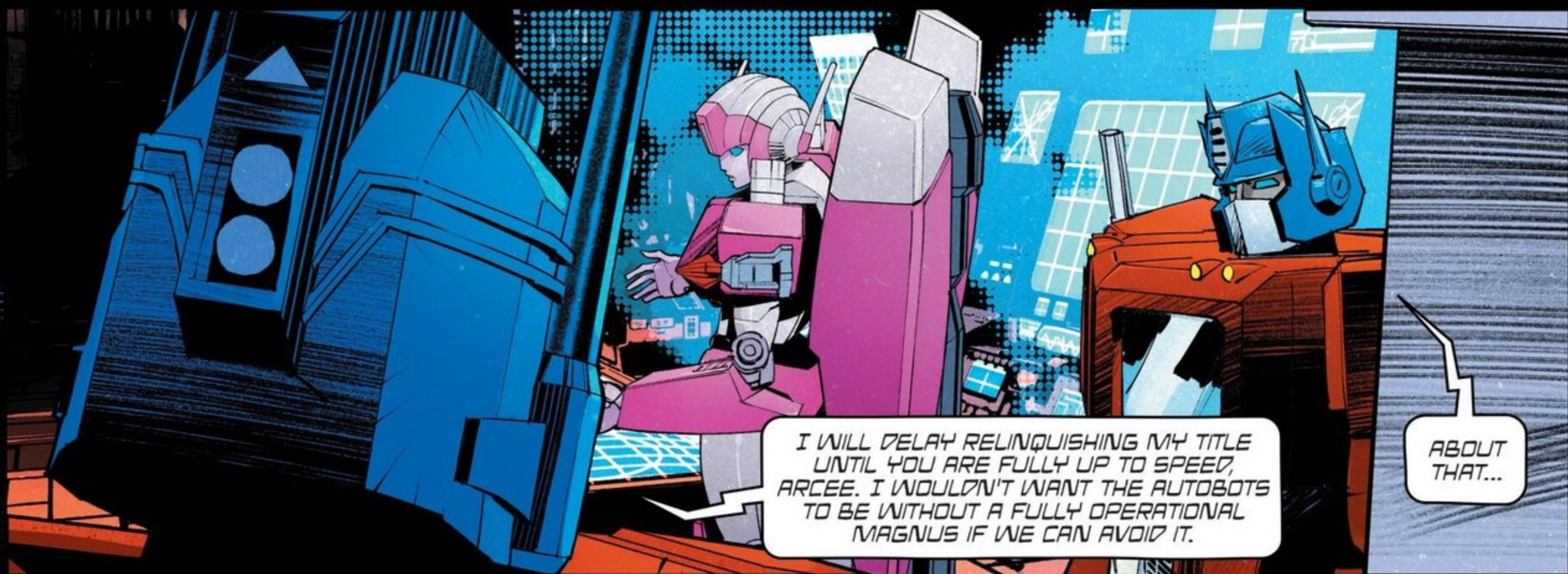


RISE,  
ARCEE  
MAGNUS.

WAKING UP IN A  
NEW BODY IS QUITE  
AN ADJUSTMENT.  
EVERYTHING FEELS OFF.  
ALL MY MOVEMENTS  
ARE OFF.

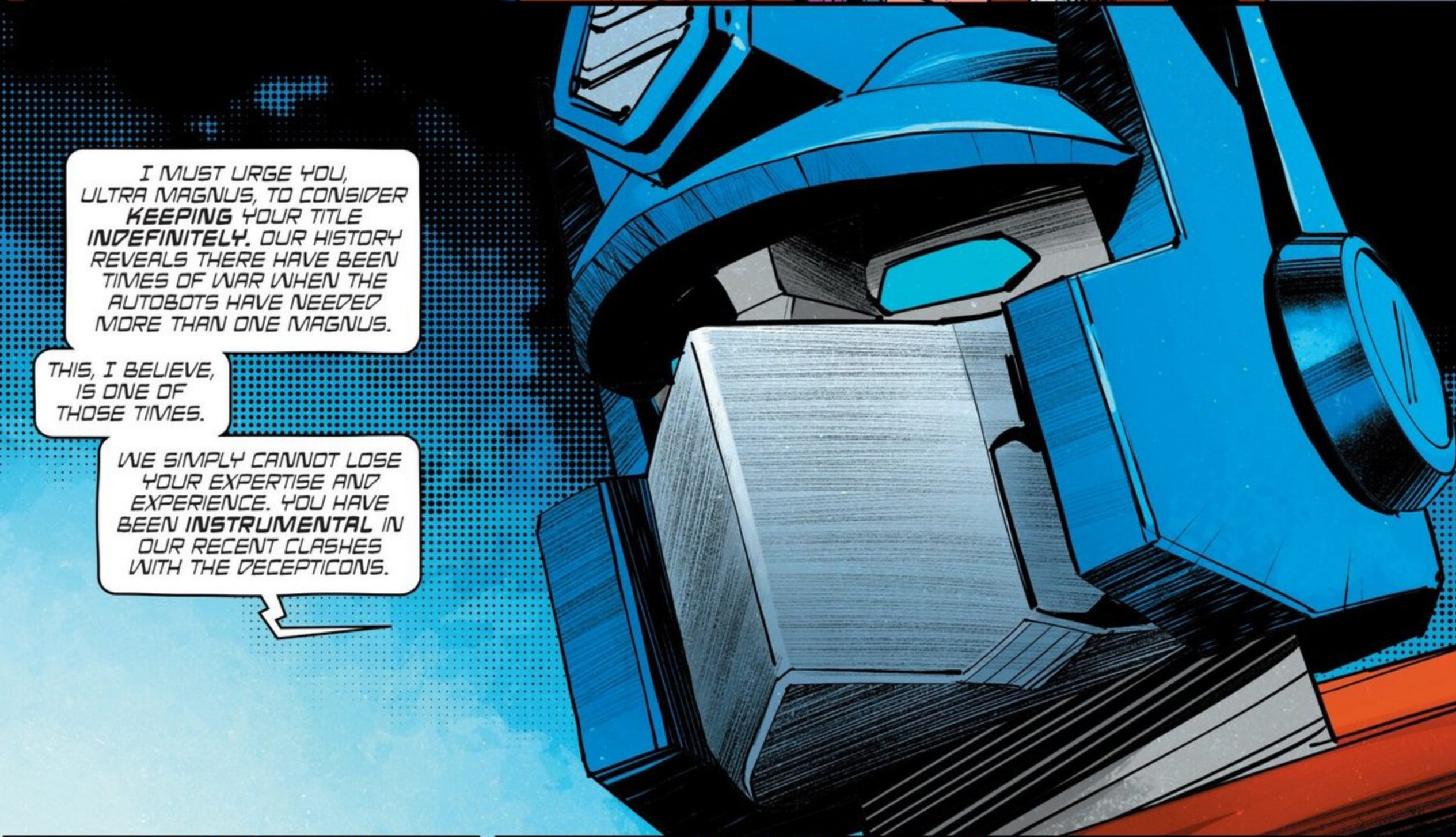
FEELS...  
STRANGE.





I WILL DELAY RELINQUISHING MY TITLE UNTIL YOU ARE FULLY UP TO SPEED, ARCEE. I WOULDN'T WANT THE AUTOBOTS TO BE WITHOUT A FULLY OPERATIONAL MAGNUS IF WE CAN AVOID IT.

ABOUT THAT...



I MUST URGE YOU, ULTRA MAGNUS, TO CONSIDER **KEEPING** YOUR TITLE **INDEFINITELY**. OUR HISTORY REVEALS THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES OF WAR WHEN THE AUTOBOTS HAVE NEEDED MORE THAN ONE MAGNUS.

THIS, I BELIEVE, IS ONE OF THOSE TIMES.

WE SIMPLY CANNOT LOSE YOUR EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE. YOU HAVE BEEN **INSTRUMENTAL** IN OUR RECENT CLASHES WITH THE DECEPTICONS.



I FEAR WE CANNOT SPARE YOU.



I AM RELUCTANT... BUT, I WILL CONSIDER IT.

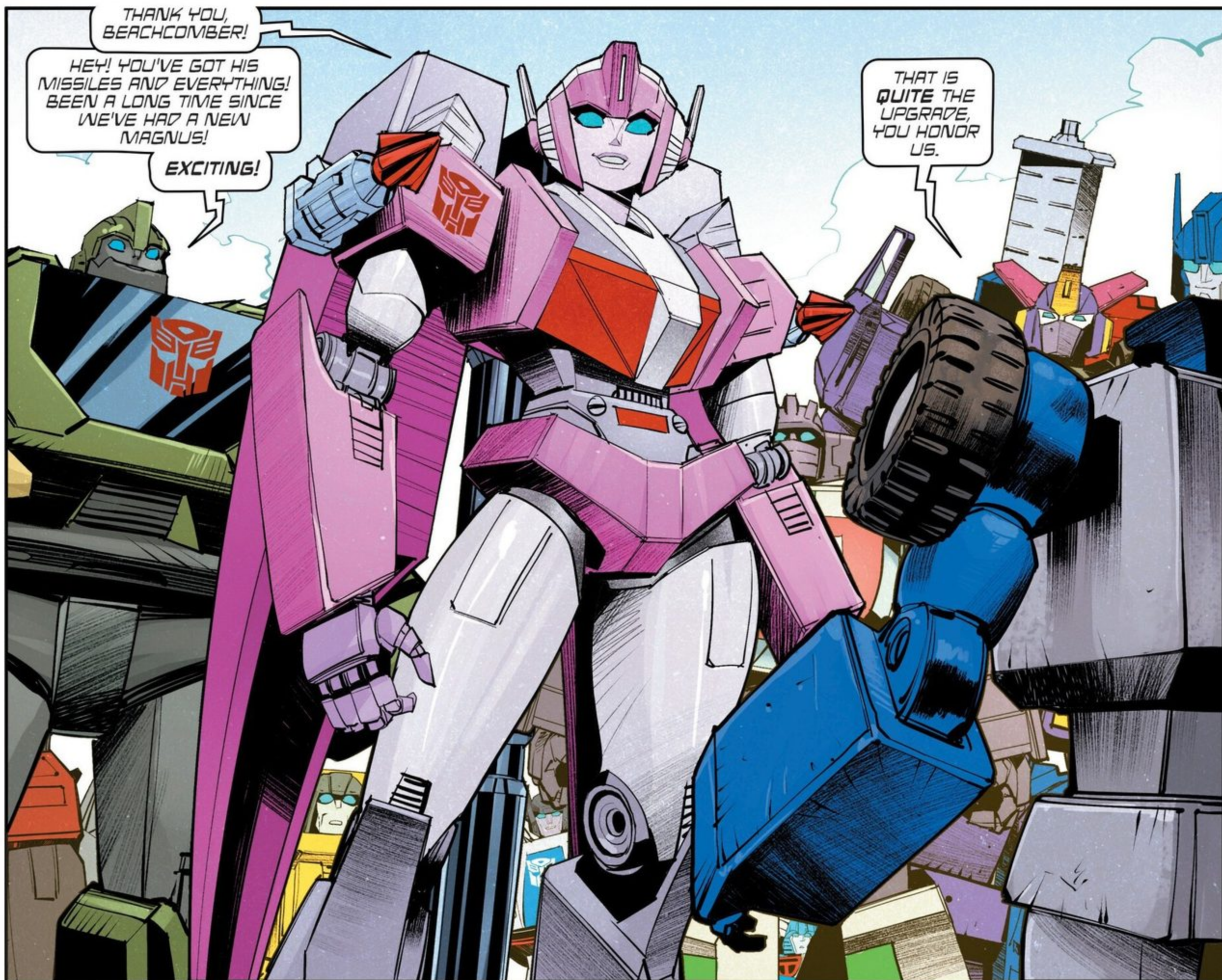


THAT IS ALL I ASK. **THANK YOU.**





WHOA! I  
FEEL SAFER  
ALREADY!

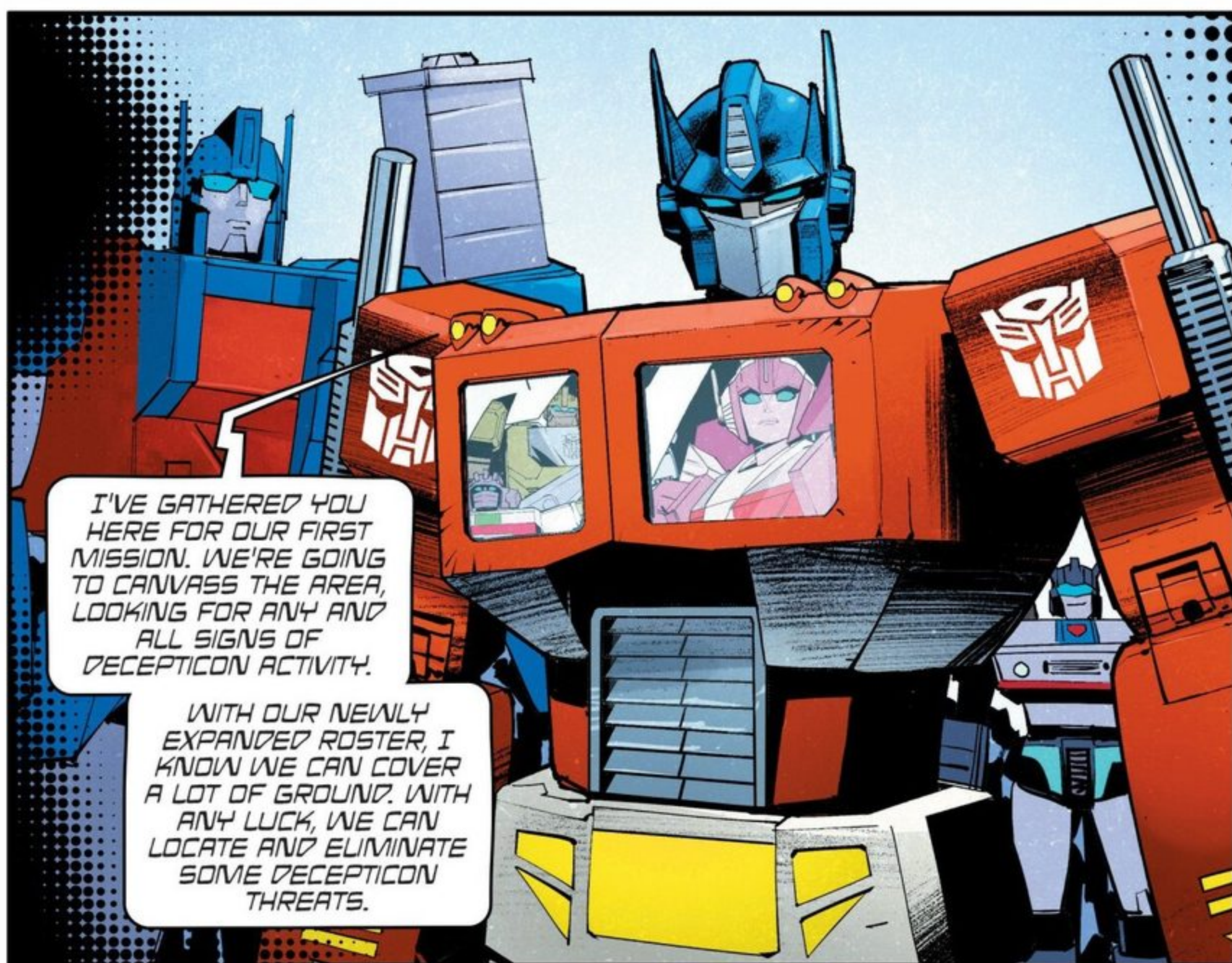


THANK YOU,  
BEACHCOMBER!

HEY! YOU'VE GOT HIS  
MISSILES AND EVERYTHING!  
BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE  
WE'VE HAD A NEW  
MAGNUS!

EXCITING!

THAT IS  
QUITE THE  
UPGRADE,  
YOU HONOR  
US.



I'VE GATHERED YOU  
HERE FOR OUR FIRST  
MISSION. WE'RE GOING  
TO CANVASS THE AREA,  
LOOKING FOR ANY AND  
ALL SIGNS OF  
DECEPTICON ACTIVITY.

WITH OUR NEWLY  
EXPANDED ROSTER, I  
KNOW WE CAN COVER  
A LOT OF GROUND. WITH  
ANY LUCK, WE CAN  
LOCATE AND ELIMINATE  
SOME DECEPTICON  
THREATS.



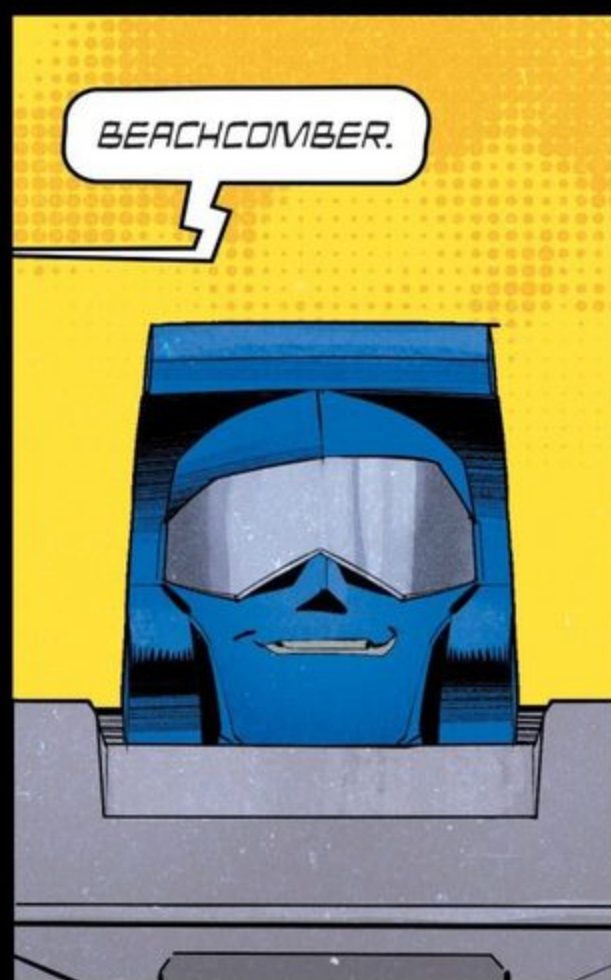
BEFORE  
WE ROLL  
OUT--

ARCEE MAGNUS,  
AS YOUR FIRST  
OFFICIAL DUTY AS  
MAGNUS, RALLY  
THE TROOPS.

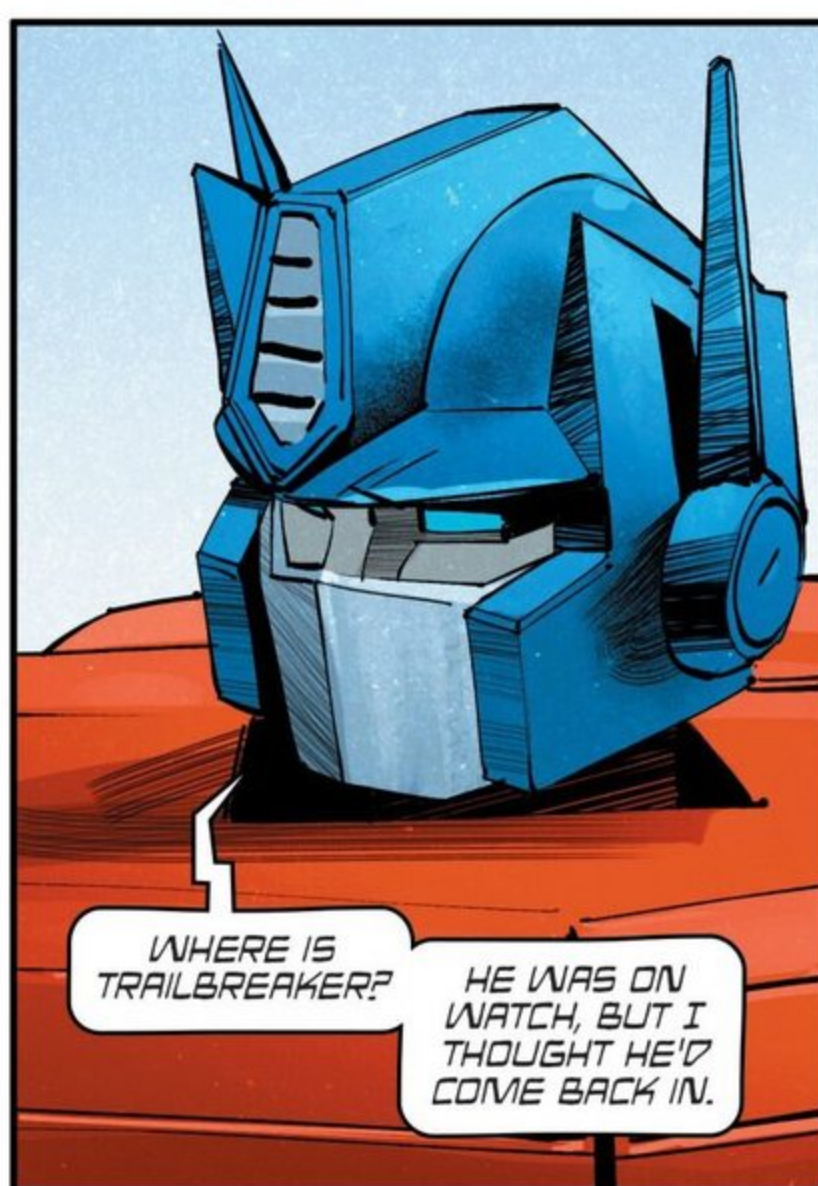
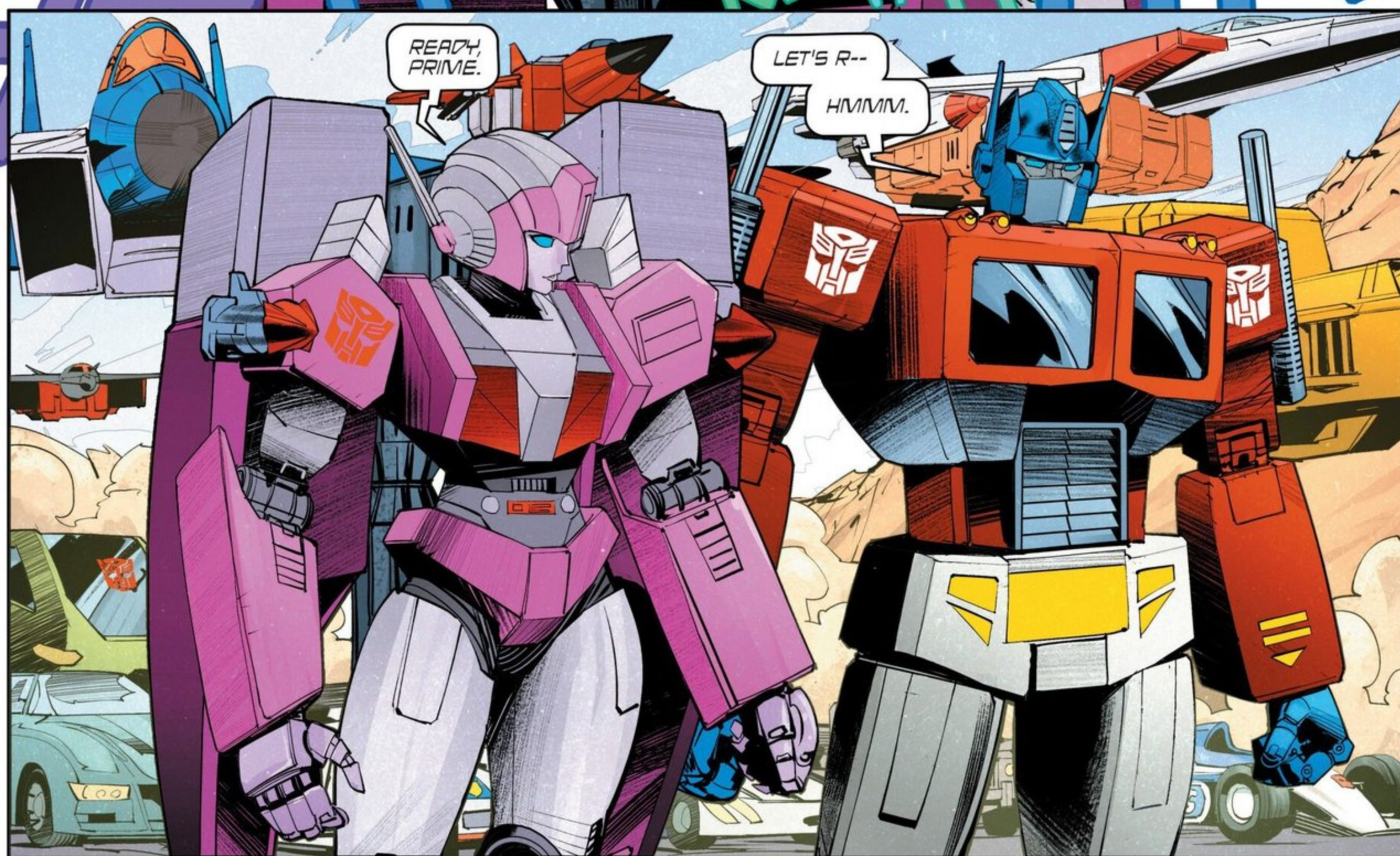
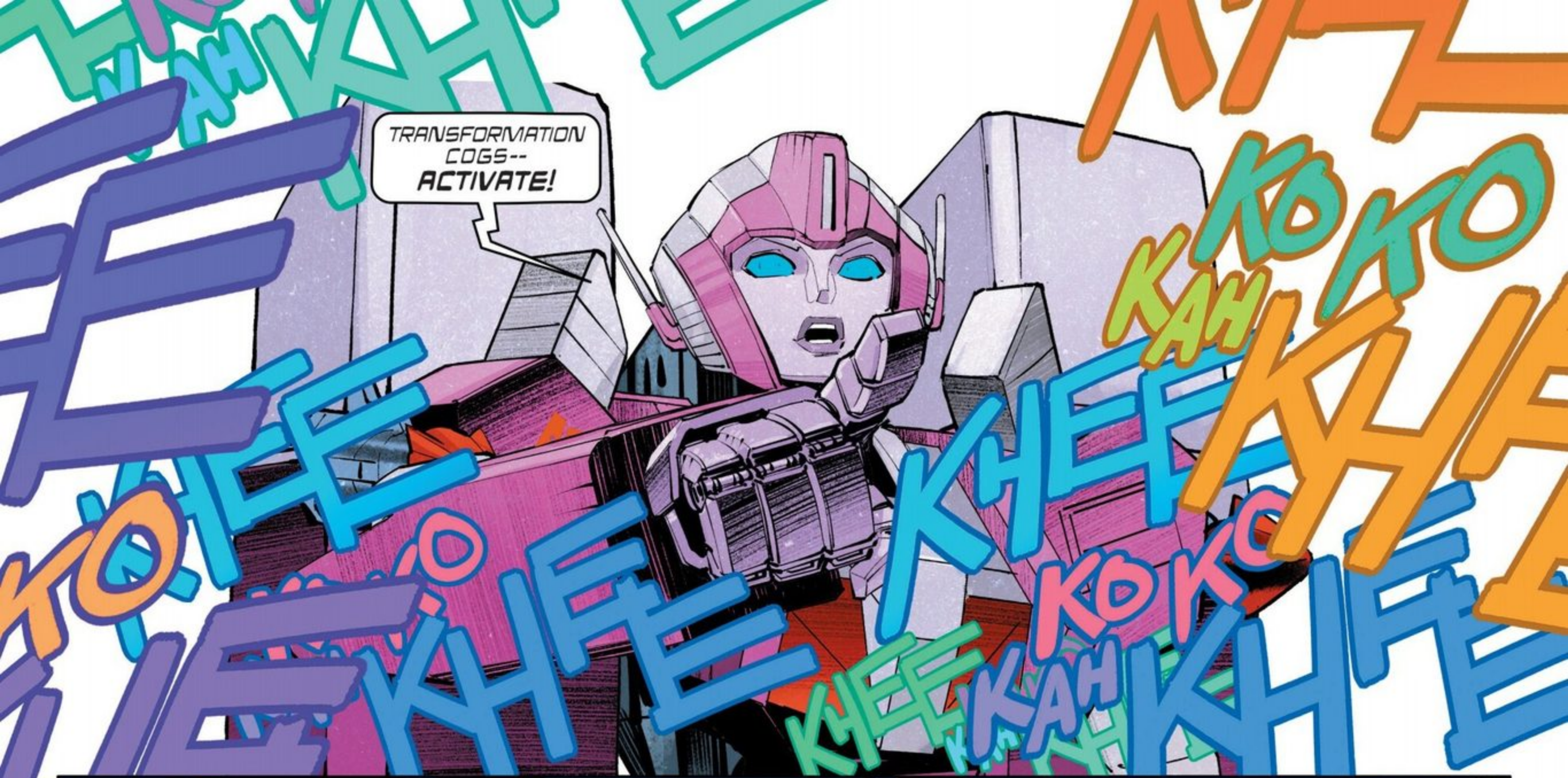
YES, SIR.

AUTOBOTS!

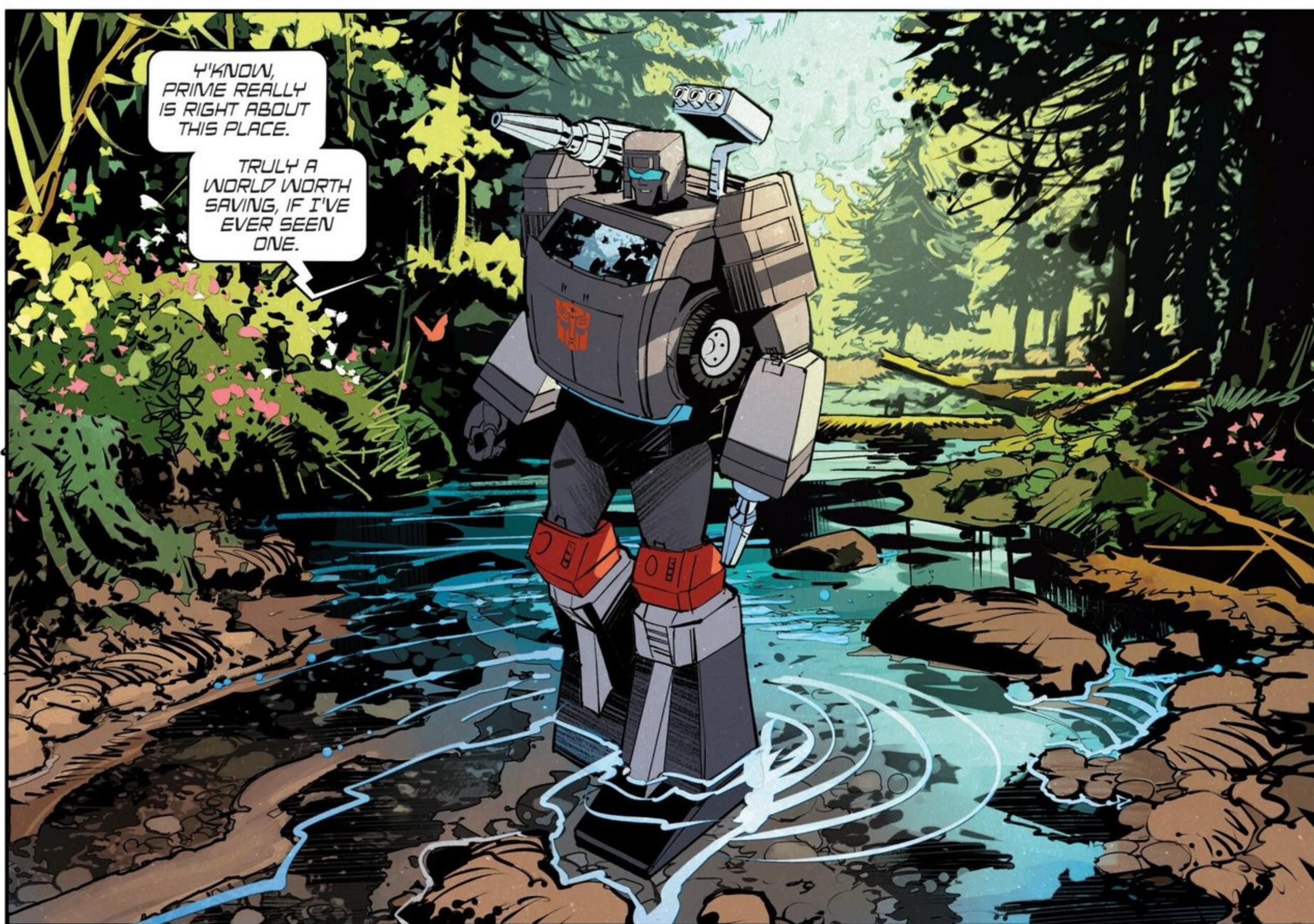
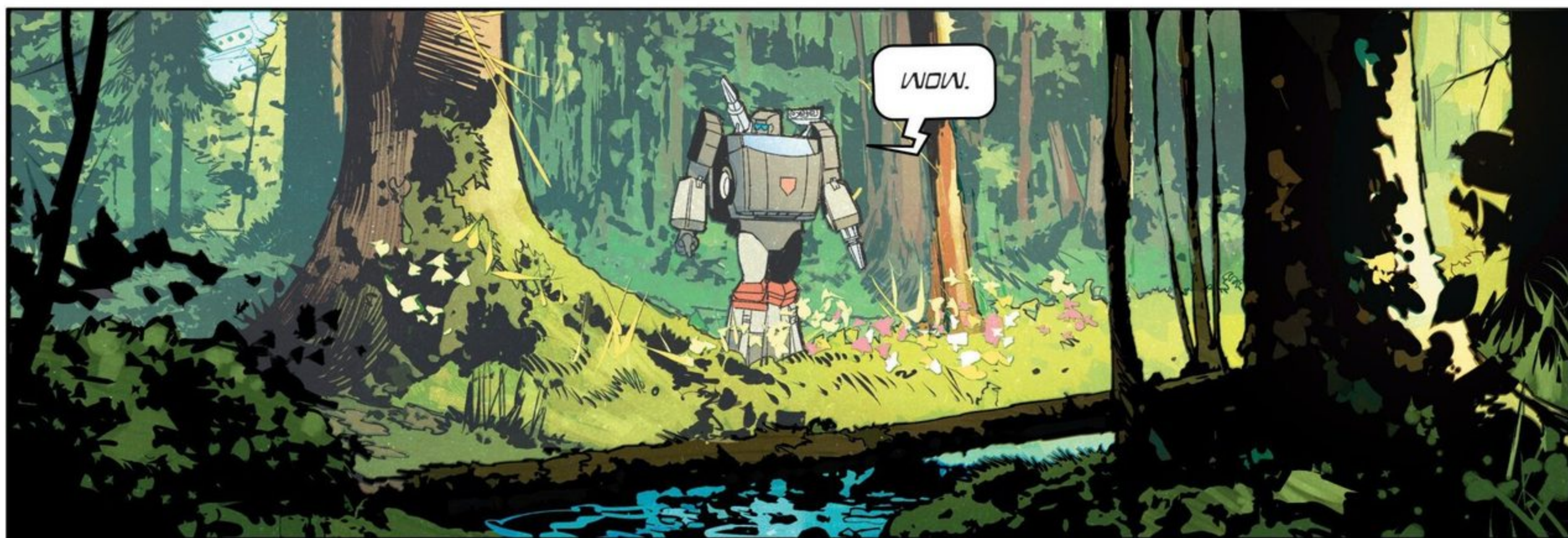
















MEG--



WATCH AND  
LEARN,  
DECEPTICONS.









I DRAIN YOUR  
SPARK AND  
BESTOW UPON  
YOU A...

**PERMANENT  
DEATH.**



# THE MATRIX OF

SEND LETTERS TO  
TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM

Happy New Year, folks! I hope everyone's ready for year three of the Energon Universe after that insane ending! We have so much stuff planned, it's wild...and joining me again to spread the new year cheer is Robert Kirkman!

*This is how we start a letters column after what just happened! I mean, happy new year and all for sure, but man...pour one out for ol' Trailbreaker! I apologize in advance to all the Trailheads out there. This one hurt me, too, I swear! And look how lovingly Dan drew poor TB's demise. Heartbreaking!*

*I know because of my past work...a lot of people thought I was going to come into this book like a wrecking ball just laying waste to the cast! Not so! I've mostly affirmed a lot of our favorites to be alive up to this point. So, I've done the opposite!*

*Anyway, nothing like this happens for the sake of shock value. This is all to build story and when you finally see where Megatron's journey is leading, you will see! But until then...sorry. But also, I learned from the best! Transformers have to die! That's the tradition!*

*Ben, shall we find refuge in the mail for this month before the letters for this issue start rolling in?*

**Certainly! Let's check that mail bag!**



Hi Transformers Team,

I've been a huge fan of Transformers since I was a kid watching the cartoon in the Eighties and being devastated watching the movie in 86 (yes, I'm that old).

I have been loving this new interpretation of the classic characters and lore, respecting what came before but making it exciting and fresh. I've especially liked how the Decepticons have been portrayed with new depth being added to Starscream, Thundercracker and especially Soundwave. He was the first toy I got as a kid so he will always be a favourite of mine.

With that in mind, I was wondering why Robert has decided to essentially revert Soundwave back to his Eighties cartoon personality and speech patterns now he has taken over writing duties? The stilted dialogue and coldness seems at odds with the more passionate character who fought Starscream and won for leadership of the Decepticons and cared deeply for his tapes, especially Ravage.

Is this simply a stylistic choice for the character, or will there be an explanation for the change in him since he was captured? I still love this book and all the other Energon Universe titles, but curious as to

# LETTERSHIP

why this change was made to Soundwave.

Keep up the amazing work.  
Phil

Thanks for writing in, Phil...a lot of us are "that old" when it comes to Transformers, haha.

*Okay, Soundwave...yeah. So...to me, part of the fun of writing this book (and these characters over in VOID RIVALS) is trying to match the speech patterns from the classic show. To me, that's how the characters sound. To me, that's "correct".*

*I know the way I'm writing Soundwave is a slight departure from how he spoke before, but he did fall a long way and let's say maybe he landed on his head. So I think there's enough plausible deniability for the shift there, albeit somewhat flimsy.*

*I will say, I promise Soundwave is no less passionate. If he's ever released from captivity, he'll probably have a little more to say and I would expect that a hybrid of the two styles will emerge if he ever has to pontificate for a long duration.*

*To Ben's credit, this issue was flagged but we chose to explore this path.*



Hi Transformers Skybound Team!!

Thanks for getting me heavily into Transformers again. I haven't enjoyed them since I was little, and now I'm almost an adult, I'm glad I was able to reconnect with the series. One element was this comic!! From the work of DWJ and now Kirkman, to movies like Transformers: One and The Transformers: The Movie, I have a newfound fixation on this franchise. As of writing this, I went over to my LCS, picked up this issue, read it as soon as I got home, and also picked up my very first Transformers figure!! (It was Arcee, if you were wondering.)

Issue 26's ending left me shocked. It's crazy final page reveals like this that keep me buying single issues month after month. Part of me thinks what happened to Megatron is as serious as it seems, and the other is not. Did they actually...defeat him? That easily? Anyway, Dan Mora's on the series for a few issues. He's my favorite comics artist of all time (does he ever take a break? His workload must be massive). To have Mr. Kirkman and Mr. Mora on the same book is a pleasure to say the least. It's a treat to see how fantastic this book gets every month, and I'd like to thank the incredible staff on it!

'Till all are one,  
Luke

**Thank you for writing in and your support, Luke, it's very much appreciated! Having Robert and Dan on this series is a legit**



**“dream come true” moment!**

**Being on this series with Dan is a dream come true! Stay tuned, Luke! Lots going on with ol’ Megatron! Just you wait. That ending moment from issue 26 was only the beginning! Or really...maybe this story began long before that--as hinted at in this very issue! Intrigue!**



HI TRANSFORMERS SKYBOUND TEAM!!

AGHH THE TEASE OF WHEELJACK LOOKING AT FOSSILS HAD ME JUMPING. PLEEEAAASEEEEEEE I WANT DINOBOTTSSSSS!!!!!!! GRIMLOCK KING!!!!!!

Also seeing Thundercracker join the Autobots was definitely not something I expected, but WOAHH it’s gonna be interesting to see how that plays out! It’s so sad to see how things went between Skywarp and Thundercracker but I really hope Skywarp comes back around. Man, the Seekers have it rough right now.

The contrast between how Megatron and Optimus treat their troops is definitely something that caught my eye--like when Optimus offers the Energon to those who need it most first, (even giving some to Soundwave!?) and the first thing Megatron says when they get more Energon is assuming he would be repaired first.

There’s so much going on in the best way. Honestly, the writing here has really got me invested and has me dying waiting for the next issues to come out like a long lost source of Energon.

ANYWAYS, I LOVE THIS SERIES SO MUCH I CAN’T WAIT TO SEE MORE!

P.S. THE NEW ART LOOKS GORGEOUS I LOVE IT AHHHH!!!!!!

Autobots, roll out!  
- Miki

**Thank you for the letter and enthusiasm, Miki! We’ll see more of that deep contrast in leadership styles between Optimus Prime and Megatron as the series goes on...and I hope this issue blew you away!**

**Who is this “Grimlock” you speak of?**



Dear Transformers team,

I just read issue #26 of Transformers and I absolutely loved it, Ii honestly wasn’t sure if I was going to continue reading the series because DWJ and Jorge Corona were being removed from the creative team but with this most recent issue I have been convinced that we will be getting another amazing story.

**Not “removed!” They both departed under extreme efforts to get them to stay! Let me assure you!**

I really enjoyed how Optimus treated

Thundercracker in this issue, giving him a chance to redeem himself. I’m really excited to see where this story line with Thundercracker becoming an Autobot or an ally to the Autobots plays out.

Also, Shredhead is super awesome please show more of him.

Best regards,  
Xavier

**Thank you for sticking around, Xavier, and I’m glad we won you over! It was sad to see Daniel and Jorge leave the series but they told the story they set out to tell and it was EPIC! But Robert and Dan are going to wow you, I promise! They have a LOT of cool stuff in store!**

**We love Shredhead as much as everyone else does. I promise they WILL get a chance in the spotlight sooner or later!**



I really enjoyed the last issue; Thundercracker has always been my favorite of the Transformers, so I’m really happy to see him get some time in the spotlight. He’s right up there with my other favorites, Jazz and the Dinobots. I’m really, really excited to see the Dinobots, I wish you all could have heard the squeal I let out when Wheeljack found that fossil a few issues back.

The Dinobots mean a lot to me, as a paleontology student with a lifelong love for dinosaurs and also a whole laundry list of learning disabilities. I always really related to the struggles the Dinobots face in G1 for being too “slow” or “stupid”. Despite all that, they always came out as heroes. So, I’m really looking forward to what you guys have planned for them.

I’m not very good with words (kind of like everyone’s favorite big robot dinosaurs) so I don’t think I can really put into words how much I love the comics so far. They give me something to look forward to every month. Can’t wait for the next issue!

Till all are one,  
Jude

**Thank you for the kind words and support, Jude. You words were perfect and meaningful and there’s a lot of us out there that feel the exact same way about the Dinobots <3**

**Truth! Hopefully we’ll actually see them in this series one day!!**



**And that’s a wrap for this month! See y’all in 30 days for next mind-blowing issue!**

-Ben

**We’re having the times of our lives here at Transformers Central! Just you wait until you see what we’ve got lined up for you fine people! Woo!**

-Robert



If you had any doubt that Megatron is one of the all-time greatest villains, then this issue confirms it! His gruesome take down of Trailbreaker will rank as one of the most diabolical demises this series has experienced to date (and we've had a few!)...but I have a really bad feeling he's only just getting started...

Ben!

-Ben Abernathy, Executive Editor



CHARACTER SPOTLIGHT

**WHO:** Arcee

**WHERE:** A fearless Autobot warrior and sharpshooter.

**WHAT:** Arcee's bravery has never been in doubt but with her elevation to Magnus, can she prove to be the strategic and inspiring leader that Optimus Prime and Ultra Magnus are counting on?

A MASSIVE HEADACHE!

I know readers are still stunned at the return of Shockwave last issue...how could he have survived Optimus Prime crushing his head like a balloon?! I guess we'll have to wait and see...maybe his spark is contained in the ominous single eye!

CREATOR SPOTLIGHT

**Q:** It's now time to ask Executive Editor Ben Abernathy the MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION--Ben, if you had an alt mode, what would it be?

**A:** Hmm...maybe a dune buggy like Beachcomber? The thought of riding peacefully along the beach would be amazing!



THE ENERGON UNIVERSE CHECKLIST



- ☐ G.I. JOE #17 AVAILABLE 1/14
- ☐ G.I. JOE #18 AVAILABLE 1/28





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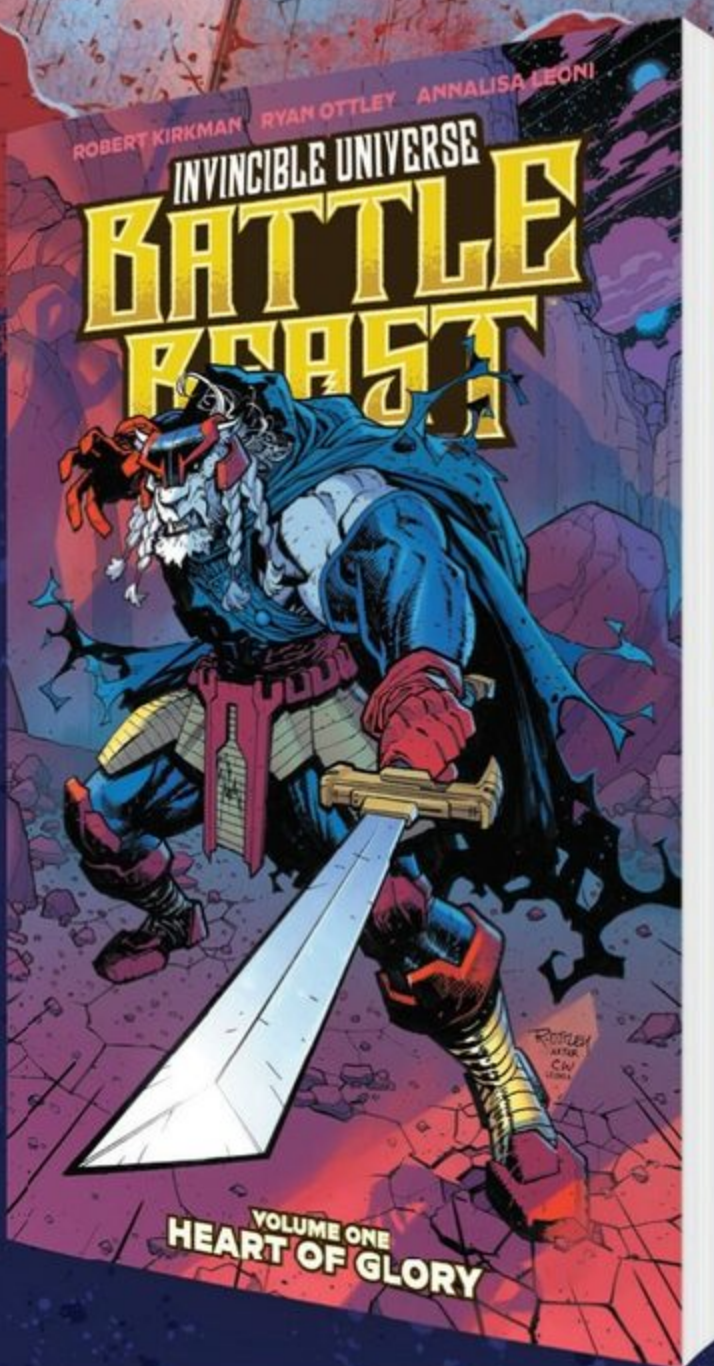
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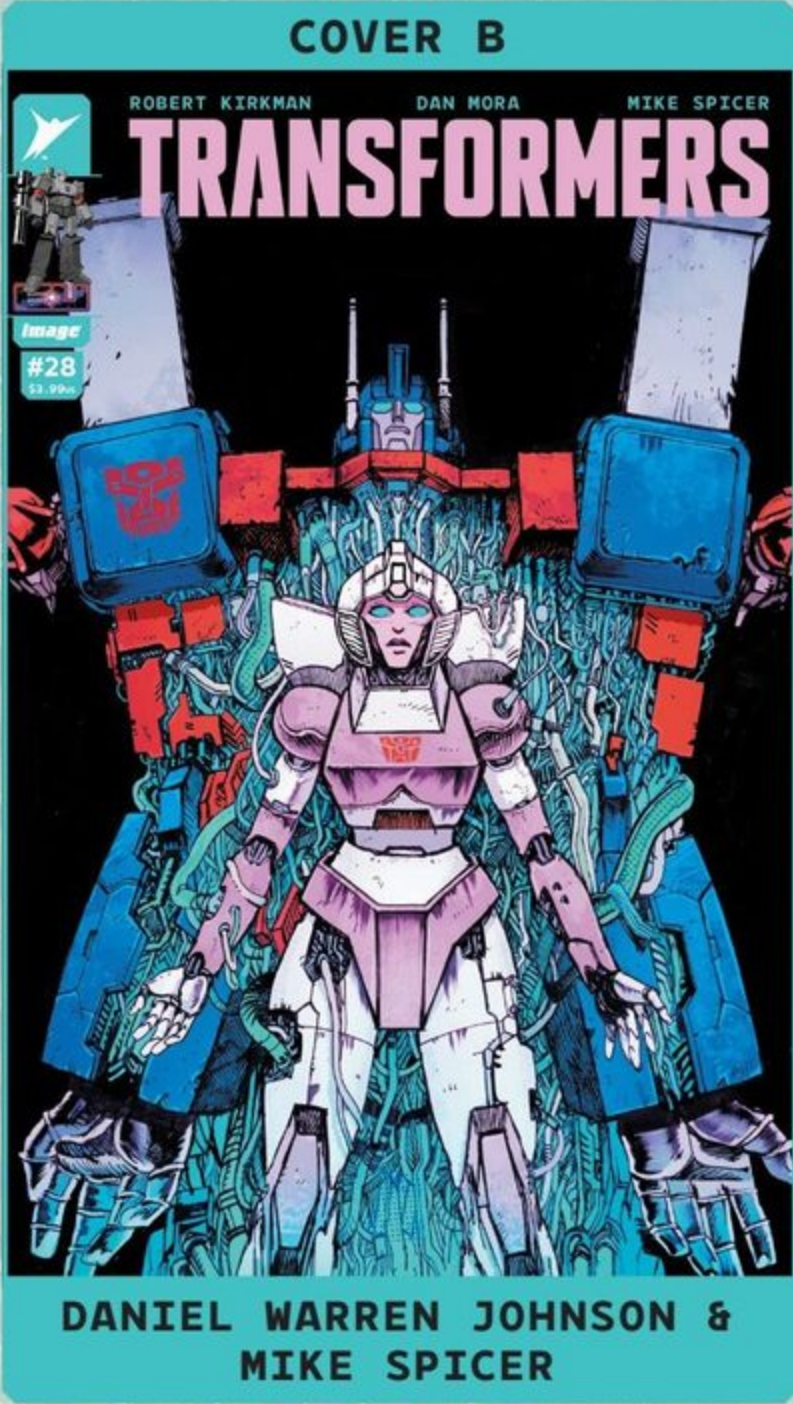


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